

APPENDIX D

FOREST PLAN AMENDMENTS

The following are the site-specific amendments to the Nez Perce National Forest Plan (Forest Plan). The full text of the proposed site-specific amendments summarized in this section and effects analysis can be found in Appendix D in the FEIS.

PLAN AMENDMENTS - SOILS

NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST

LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

AMENDMENT NO. 33

SITE-SPECIFIC AMENDMENT TO SOIL QUALITY STANDARD #2

FOR THE RED PINES PROJECT AREA

The purpose of this amendment is to allow fuel hazard reduction activities in areas that currently exceed Forest Plan soil quality standard #2.

The Nez Perce National Forest soil quality standards (Forest Plan II-22) apply to lands in the Red Pines project area. Soil quality standard #2 currently reads as follows:

“A minimum of 80 percent of an activity area shall not be detrimentally compacted, displaced, or puddled upon completion of activities. This direction does not apply to permanent recreation facilities and other permanent facilities such as system roads”.

The following amendment is proposed, specific to the Red Pines project area:

“Where detrimental soil conditions from past activities affect 15 percent or less of the activity area, a cumulative minimum of 85 percent of the activity area shall not be detrimentally compacted, displaced, or puddled upon completion of activities.

Where detrimental soil conditions from past activities affect more than 15 percent of the activity area, the cumulative detrimental soil disturbance from project implementation and past activities shall not exceed the conditions prior to the planned activity and shall provide a net improvement in soil quality.”

Table R-1 SOIL-Forest Plan Amendment

	Alt. E Modified
Site specific - Soil Quality Standard 2	Yes
Units that have activity areas that exceed the 15% disturbance standard, but will show a net improvement following treatment.	Units: 16, 17, 32, 44, 45, 46 (tractor), 46 (skyline), 134

PLAN AMENDMENTS – FISHERY/WATER QUALITY
NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST
LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
AMENDMENT NO. 34

AMENDMENT TO APPENDIX A FOR PRESCRIPTION WATERSHEDS WITHIN THE RED RIVER WATERSHED

Site-specific – Appendix-A. This amendment allows concurrent fuels reduction activities with aquatic improvement activities, with an upward trend.

This amendment proposes to change, the Forest Plan Appendix-A footnote language **for Ditch, Trail, Bridge, Baston, and Soda Creeks, and Upper Main and Main Red River** that reads in part as follows:

“ Management-derived sediment which could affect fish habitat will not be allowed until monitoring indicates habitat has recovered to planned levels.”* (Forest Plan A-7)

The proposed fuel reduction activities, as well as many of the aquatic improvement activities, would produce sediment in the short-term that could affect fish habitat. Restoration activities, however, are designed to result in an upward trend in watershed condition over time. Therefore, in order to enter into the above named prescription watersheds to reduce hazardous fuels and implement certain aquatic improvement activities, an amendment is needed.

The proposed Forest Plan amendment would replace Appendix-A footnote language for **Ditch, Trail, Bridge, Baston, and Soda creeks, and Upper Main and Main Red River** to allow concurrent activities. And the amendment would change the Forest Plan Appendix A footnote direction for **Siegel, Deadwood, Red Horse, Dawson, Moose Butte, Otterson, Schooner and Trapper creeks, Lower Red River, Lower and Upper South Fork Red River, and Middle Fork and West Fork Red River** currently allows management activities concurrent with habitat improvement efforts (Forest Plan A-7); however, these would be amended as well for consistency and clarification in the Red River watershed.

The following text would be added:

“ 6/ Aquatic conditions in these watersheds have been determined to fall below levels needed to meet fish/water quality objectives. Management activities can occur concurrently with aquatic improvements in these watersheds as long as an upward trend in habitat carrying capacity is indicated. Upward trend is indicated using multiple sources of information including stream surveys, monitoring data, predictive modeling, literature reviews and/or professional judgment. It is not specifically required that an upward trend be demonstrated through monitoring prior to initiation of management activities.”

PLAN AMENDMENTS – FISHERY/WATER QUALITY
NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST
LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
AMENDMENT No. 35

AMENDMENT TO APPENDIX A FOR PRESCRIPTION WATERSHEDS WITHIN THE RED RIVER WATERSHED

Site specific – Appendix-A, Table A-1. Updates existing stream information and adds previously omitted stream information.

This amendment proposes to update some of the information contained in Appendix-A, Table A-1 of the Nez Perce Forest Plan based on new, site-specific information. We propose to change the beneficial use for **Blanco and Campbell Creeks** from 'no fishery' to 'anadromous' based on observations of juvenile steelhead trout in these streams in 2002 and 2003. We are not proposing to amend the fishery/water quality objectives, sediment yield guidelines, and entry frequency guidelines, however, because these streams are of relatively low importance to fish. Both are below objective, and we would include footnoted direction regarding upward trend in these streams (see previous discussion).

We propose to change the beneficial use in **Little Moose and Deadwood Creeks** from 'resident' to 'anadromous' based on observations on juvenile steelhead trout in Deadwood Creek and juvenile chinook salmon in the lower reaches of Little Moose Creek. A bull trout was also observed in the lower reaches of Little Moose Creek. We are proposing to amend the sediment yield and entry frequency guidelines for both streams because of their relative importance to fish, consistent with other streams of the same importance and same overall channel types.

We propose to assign sediment yield and entry frequency guidelines for **Lowest Red River**, which was not delineated in the original Nez Perce Forest Plan. All changes, in **bold text**, are summarized below in Table R-17.

Table R-2 Proposed Changes to Appendix A, Table A-1 of the Forest Plan.

Prescription Watershed	Beneficial Use ¹	Current Fish Habitat Potential % (Forest Plan)	Fishery/Water Quality Objective	Sediment Yield Guideline (% Over Base)	Entry Frequency Guideline
Blanco Creek	A	--	70	60	3
Campbell Creek	A	--	70	60	3
Deadwood Creek	A	40	80	45	2
Little Moose Creek	A	70	80	45	2
Lowest Red River	A	--	90	30	1

PLAN AMENDMENTS – FISHERY/WATER QUALITY

NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST

LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

AMENDMENT NO. 36

AMENDMENT TO APPENDIX A FOR PRESCRIPTION WATERSHEDS WITHIN THE RED RIVER WATERSHED

Site specific – Appendix-A. To allow one-time exceedance sediment yield guidelines in Lower Red River.

This amendment would allow hazardous fuel hazard reduction activities and temporary road construction in watersheds where these activities are predicted to result in peak sediment yields that exceed guidelines listed in Table A-1 of Appendix-A.

Appendix-A includes fishery/water quality objectives and sediment yield and entry frequency guidelines that provide management direction in terms of the maximum estimated increase in sediment over baseline conditions that can be approached or equaled for a specified number of years per decade. These guidelines are intended to limit peak sediment yields such that the fishery/water quality objectives can be met, especially when combined with restoration activities in “below-objective” watersheds. Sediment yield guidelines vary based on channel type, beneficial use, species present, and overall value of the watershed to fishery resources, with the most conservative guidelines applied to high-value watersheds such as Red River.

We are proposing to allow a one-time exceedance of these values in for **Lower Red River** with Alternative E-Modified.